

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A semiconductor light emitting device  
comprising:

a semiconductor substrate formed from InP;

5 an active layer formed at the upper side of the  
semiconductor substrate; and

an n-type cladding layer formed from InGaAsP and  
a p-type cladding layer formed from InP, which are  
formed so as to hold the active layer therebetween,

10 wherein, the semiconductor light emitting device  
is, given that a refractive index of the n-type  
cladding layer is  $n_a$ , and a refractive index of the  
p-type cladding layer is  $n_b$ , set so as to be the  
relationship of  $n_a > n_b$  in which the refractive index  
15  $n_a$  of the n-type cladding layer is higher than the  
refractive index  $n_b$  of the p-type cladding layer, and  
due to the distribution of light generated by the  
active layer being deflected to the n-type cladding  
layer side, optical loss by intervalence band light  
20 absorption at the p-type cladding layer is suppressed,  
and high-power light output can be obtained.

2. A semiconductor light emitting device  
according to claim 1, wherein the semiconductor light  
emitting device further comprises:

25 a first SCH (Separate Confinement Heterostructure)  
layer formed from InGaAsP, which is formed between the  
active layer and the n-type cladding layer; and

a second SCH layer formed from InGaAsP, which is formed between the active layer and the p-type cladding layer.

3. A semiconductor light emitting device  
5 according to claim 1, wherein the active layer includes a bulk structure structured from one uniform material.

4. A semiconductor light emitting device  
according to claim 1, wherein the active layer includes a plural-layer MQW (Multi-quantum well) structure  
10 having plural-layer well layers and plural-layer barrier layers positioned at the both sides of the respective well layers at the plural-layer well layers.

5. A semiconductor light emitting device  
according to claim 2, wherein the first SCH layer  
15 includes a multilayer structure formed from a plurality of layers, and

the second SCH layer includes a multilayer structure formed from a plurality of layers.

6. A semiconductor light emitting device  
20 according to claim 5, wherein, given that a refractive index of a layer having the lowest refractive index of said plurality of layers structuring the active layer is  $n_s$ , and refractive indices and thickness of said plurality of layers of the first SCH layer are  
25 respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer and refractive indices and thickness of said plurality of layers of

the second SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer,

the relationship of the thickness of the  
5 respective layers is set to be

$$t_1 = t_2 = t_3 =, \dots, = t_N$$

the relationship of the magnitudes of the refractive indices of the respective layers is set to be the relationship:

10 
$$n_s > n_1 > n_2 > n_3 >, \dots, n_N > n_a > n_b$$

such that the refractive indices become smaller the further away from the active layer including the relationship that the refractive index  $n_s$  of the active layer is the highest, and the refractive index  $n_a$  of  
15 the n-type cladding layer is higher than the refractive index  $n_b$  of the p-type cladding layer, and

the refractive index differences between the layers which are adjacent to one another in said plurality of layers respectively structuring the first  
20 SCH layer and the second SCH layer are set to be the relationship:

$$n_s - n_1 > n_1 - n_2 > n_2 - n_3 >, \dots, > n_N - n_b > n_N - n_a$$

such that the refractive index differences become smaller the further toward the n-type cladding layer  
25 and the p-type cladding layer from the active layer.

7. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 5, wherein, given that a refractive

index of a layer having the lowest refractive index of  
said plurality of layers structuring the active layer  
is  $n_s$ , the refractive indices and the thickness of  
said plurality of layers of the first SCH layer are  
5 respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$   
at order close from the active layer and the refractive  
indices and the thickness of said plurality of layers  
of the second SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3,$   
 $\dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the  
10 active layer,

the relationship of the magnitudes of the  
refractive indices of the respective layers is set to  
be the relationship:

$$n_s > n_1 > n_2 > n_3 > \dots > n_N > n_a > n_b$$

15 such that the refractive indices become smaller the  
further away from the active layer including the  
relationship that the refractive index  $n_s$  of the active  
layer is the highest, and the refractive index  $n_a$  of  
the n-type cladding layer is higher than the refractive  
20 index  $n_b$  of the p-type cladding layer,

the refractive index differences between the  
layers which are adjacent to one another in said  
plurality of layers respectively structuring the first  
SCH layer and the second SCH layer are set to be the  
25 relationship:

$$n_s - n_1 = n_1 - n_2 = n_2 - n_3 = \dots = n_N - n_b$$

(where  $n_N - n_b > n_N - n_a$ ),

such that the refractive index differences are equal to one another, and

the relationship of the thickness of the respective layers is set to be

5  $t_1 < t_2 < t_3 < \dots < t_N$

such that the thickness becomes larger the further away from the active layer.

8. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 5, wherein, given that a refractive index of a layer having the lowest refractive index of  
10 said plurality of layers structuring the active layer is  $n_s$ , the refractive indices and the thickness of said plurality of layers of the first SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$   
15 at order close from the active layer and the refractive indices and the thickness of said plurality of layers of the second SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer,

20 the relationship of the magnitudes of the refractive indices of the respective layers is set to be the relationship:

$n_s > n_1 > n_2 > n_3 > \dots > n_N > n_a > n_b$

such that the refractive indices become smaller the  
25 further away from the active layer including the relationship that the refractive index  $n_s$  of the active layer is the highest, and the refractive index  $n_a$  of

the n-type cladding layer is higher than the refractive index  $n_b$  of the p-type cladding layer,

the refractive index differences between the layers which are adjacent to one another in said plurality of layers respectively structuring the first SCH layer and the second SCH layer are set to be the relationship:

$$n_s - n_1 > n_1 - n_2 > n_2 - n_3 > \dots > n_N - n_b > n_N - n_a$$

such that refractive index differences become smaller

the further away from the active layer, and

the relationship of the thickness of the respective layers is set to be:

$$t_1 < t_2 < t_3 < \dots < t_N$$

such that the thickness becomes larger the further away from the active layer.

9. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 5, wherein, given that a refractive index of a layer having the lowest refractive index of said plurality of layers structuring the active layer is  $n_s$ , and refractive indices and thickness of said plurality of layers of the first SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer and refractive indices and thickness of said plurality of layers of the second SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer,

the relationship of the thickness of the respective layers is set to be

$$t_1 = t_2 = t_3 = \dots = t_N$$

the relationship of the magnitudes of the refractive indices of the respective layers is set to be the relationship:

$$n_s > n_1 > n_2 > n_3 > \dots, n_N > n_b, \text{ and} \\ n_a > n_N$$

such that the refractive indices become smaller the further away from the active layer including the relationship that the refractive index  $n_s$  of the active layer is the highest, and the refractive index  $n_a$  of the n-type cladding layer is higher than the refractive index  $n_b$  of the p-type cladding layer, and

the refractive index differences between the layers which are adjacent to one another in said plurality of layers respectively structuring the first SCH layer and the second SCH layer are set to be the relationship:

$$n_s - n_1 > n_1 - n_2 > n_2 - n_3 > \dots, > n_{(N-1)} - n_N$$

such that the refractive index differences become smaller the further toward the n-type cladding layer and the p-type cladding layer from the active layer.

10. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 5, wherein, given that a refractive index of a layer having the lowest refractive index of said plurality of layers structuring the active layer

is  $n_s$ , the refractive indices and the thickness of said plurality of layers of the first SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer and the refractive indices and the thickness of said plurality of layers of the second SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer,

the relationship of the magnitudes of the refractive indices of the respective layers is set to be the relationship:

$$n_s > n_1 > n_2 > n_3 > \dots > n_N > n_b, \text{ and} \\ n_a > n_N$$

such that the refractive indices become smaller the further away from the active layer including the relationship that the refractive index  $n_s$  of the active layer is the highest, and the refractive index  $n_a$  of the n-type cladding layer is higher than the refractive index  $n_b$  of the p-type cladding layer,

the refractive index differences between the layers which are adjacent to one another in said plurality of layers respectively structuring the first SCH layer and the second SCH layer are set to be the relationship:

$$n_s - n_1 = n_1 - n_2 = n_2 - n_3 = \dots = n_N - n_b$$

such that the refractive index differences are equal to one another, and



the relationship of the thickness of the respective layers is set to be

$$t_1 < t_2 < t_3 < \dots < t_N$$

such that the thickness becomes larger the further away from the active layer.

5 11. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 5, wherein, given that a refractive index of a layer having the lowest refractive index of said plurality of layers structuring the active layer is  $n_s$ , the refractive indices and the thickness of said plurality of layers of the first SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer and the refractive indices and the thickness of said plurality of layers of the second SCH layer are respectively  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_N$  and  $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_N$  at order close from the active layer,

the relationship of the magnitudes of the refractive indices of the respective layers is set to be the relationship:

$$n_s > n_1 > n_2 > n_3 > \dots > n_N > n_b, \text{ and} \\ n_a > n_N$$

such that the refractive indices become smaller the further away from the active layer including the relationship that the refractive index  $n_s$  of the active layer is the highest, and the refractive index  $n_a$  of the n-type cladding layer is higher than the refractive

index nb of the p-type cladding layer,

the refractive index differences between the layers which are adjacent to one another in said plurality of layers respectively structuring the first SCH layer and the second SCH layer are set to be the relationship:

$$n_s - n_1 > n_1 - n_2 > n_2 - n_3 > \dots > n_{(N-1)} - n_N$$

such that refractive index differences become smaller the further away from the active layer, and

the relationship of the thickness of the respective layers is set to be:

$$t_1 < t_2 < t_3 < \dots < t_N$$

such that the thickness becomes larger the further away from the active layer.

12. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 2, wherein the semiconductor light emitting device is formed so as to be a buried structure.

13. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 12, wherein the n-type cladding layer, the first SCH layer, the active layer, the second SCH layer, and a part of the p-type cladding layer are formed to be a mesa type, and

the semiconductor light emitting device further comprises:

a first buried layer formed from p-type InP such that one surface thereof contacts the semiconductor

substrate or the n-type cladding layer at the both sides of the respective layers formed to be a mesa type; and

5 a second buried layer formed from n-type InP such that one surface thereof contacts the p-type cladding layer and the other surface thereof contacts the other surface of the first buried layer at the both sides of the respective layers formed to be a mesa type.

14. A semiconductor light emitting device  
10 according to claim 1, wherein the semiconductor light emitting device is formed so as to be a ridge structure.

15 15. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 14, wherein, when the semiconductor substrate is n-type, the p-type cladding layer is formed as a ridge structured portion in which the substantially central portion at the outer side thereof is heaped to the upper side, and

20 the semiconductor light emitting device further comprises:

a contact layer formed at the upper side of the ridge structured portion at the p-type cladding layer;

an insulating layer formed so as to open the central portion of the contact layer, and so as to  
25 cover the p-type cladding layer including the ridge structured portion; and

an electrode formed at the top portion of the

insulating layer in a state in which one portion thereof is connected to the contact layer.

16. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein a bandgap wavelength of InGaAsP structuring the n-type cladding layer is less  
5 than or equal to 0.97  $\mu\text{m}$ .

17. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein a width of the active layer formed from InGaAsP is greater than or equal to  
10 3.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

18. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein the high-power light output is greater than or equal to 700 mW.

19. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein, when the semiconductor  
15 substrate is n-type, the n-type cladding layer is formed at the lower side of the active layer, and the p-type cladding layer is formed at the upper side of the active layer.

20. A semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 1, wherein, when the semiconductor  
20 substrate is p-type, the n-type cladding layer is formed at the upper side of the active layer, and the p-type cladding layer is formed at the lower side of  
25 the active layer.